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TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED / ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER P66034US0
	US APPLICATION NO (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/674277

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
PCT/FR99/01000	27 April 1999	28 April 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION
NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES FOR THE DETECTION OF ENTEROHAEMORRHAGIC ESCHERICHIA COLI (EHEC)

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US
Dominique FRECHON, Françoise Claudine LAURE and Dominique THIERRY

Applicant herein submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information.

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for Internatl. Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
   a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
   b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
   c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
   a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
   b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
   c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
   d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the Internatl. Preliminary Examination report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
    ☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:
    International Search Report (EPO)
    PCT Request Form
    PCT/IB/304 Form
    First Page of Publication
    International Preliminary Examination Report

US APPLICATION NO (If known, see 37 CFR 1 5)	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
09/674277	PCT/FR99/01000	P66034US0

	CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY
17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:		
Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):		
Internatl. prelim. examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1)) . . $690.00		
No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (2)) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) . . $710.00		
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (3)) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO) **$1000.00**		
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (4)) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) $100.00		
Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (5)) **$860.00**		
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =	$ 860.00	
Surcharge of $130.00 for furnishing the **oath or declaration** later than ☐ **20** ☒ **30** months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).	$ 130.00	

Claims	**Number Filed**	**Number Extra**	Rate		
Total Claims	**1** - 20 =	-0-	x $18.00	$	
Independent Claims	**1** - 3 =	-0-	x $80.00	$	
Multiple Dependent Claim(s) (if applicable)			+ $270.00	$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				$ 990.00	
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by **small entity**, if applicable. Verified Small Entity statement must also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				$	
SUBTOTAL =				$ 990.00	
Processing fee of $130 for furnishing the **English translation** later than ☐ **20** ☐ **30** months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f))				$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				$ 990.00	
Fee of $40.00 for recording the enclosed **assignment** (37 CFR 1.21(h)). Assignment must be accompanied by appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31).				$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				$ 990.00	
				Amt. to be refunded:	$
				Amt. charged:	$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of $ 990.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. **06-1358** in the amount of $ ____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge my account any additional fees set forth in §1.492 during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **06-1358**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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JPH&S 3/95

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Dominique FRECHON et al.

Serial No.: New

Filing Date: October 30, 2000

For: NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES FOR THE DETECTION OF ENTEROHAEMORRHAGIC ESCHERICHIA COLI (EHEC)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please CANCEL claims 2-19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Atty. Docket: P66034US0
Date: October 30, 2000
WEP:crj

Nucleotide sequences for the detection of enterohaemorrhagic Escherichia Coli (EHEC)

The subject of the invention is two nucleic sequences of plasmid origin, present in bacteria of the enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* group (EHEC), the use of the said sequences for the identification of EHEC(s), especially those possessing the genes encoding the virulence factors, enterohaemolysin and intimin, and more particularly the specific detection of serotype O157 :H7. The invention also relates to a method using the said sequences as well as the detection kits containing them.

Bacteria of the EHEC group belong to the verotoxin producing *Escherichia coli* or VTEC family, responsible for diarrhoeic syndromes whose consequences may be fatal in humans. In particular, EHECs can cause haemorrhagic colitis (HC), and possibly the appearance of major complications such as haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) or thrombopenic thrombotic purpura *(Griffin et Tauxe, Epidemiol. Rev. 13, 1991, 60-98)*.

Accordingly, the effect of these infections on public health is such that it involves increased monitoring of foodstuffs and of rapid detection means, in particular in the case of epidemics.

Several serotypes belonging to the EHEC group have been identified and made responsible for various epidemic foci: O157 :H7, O26 :H11, O111 :NM, O103 :H2, O145 :NM etc. (*Acheson et Keush, ASM News 62, 1996, 302-306*). However, it is serotype O157 :H7 which has been most frequently isolated.

The traditional methods of detection consist in identifying the bacteria or in detecting the toxins secreted by them. The detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7 is mainly carried out on the basis of serotyping, combined with the test for metabolic properties, comprising the absence of fermentation of sorbitol and/or the absence of β-glucuronidase activities. Moreover, no

bacteriological method exists which is specific for the detection of EHECs, but tests which make it possible to orient the diagnosis. In particular, the use of agars supplemented with blood or washed red blood cells make it possible to demonstrate the enterohaemolytic character generally present in EHECs.

In general, the bacteriological and immunological methods relating to the detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7 are long, tedious, relatively expensive and require serological confirmation. Moreover, these methods do not make it possible to establish and identification of *E. coli* O157 :H7 because of cross-reactions with other bacterial genera and species, which makes the interpretation difficult.

The use of nucleic probes has therefore appeared as an alternative to these traditional methods. Great efforts have been made to develop these probes, which are capable of detecting, in a sensitive and specific manner, the EHEC-type *E. coli* bacteria involved in the HC and/or HUS cases, and for which the most widespread prototype is *E. coli* O157 :H7.

In particular, probes or fragments, allowing the detection of the genes responsible for the virulence of *E. coli*, also called virulence factors, have been published. However, none of the currently known virulence factors makes it possible, on its own, to identify pathogenic strains of *E. coli* O157 :H7 or of EHECs.

Thus, the use of nucleic probes or fragments for the detection of genes encoding verotoxins (*vt1* or *st1*, *vt2* or *st2*), described by many research groups (*Karch et Meyer, J. Clin Microbiol. 27, 1989, 2751-2757; Gannon et al., Appl. Env. Microbiol. 58, 1992, 3809-3815; Begum et al., J. Clin. Microbiol. 31, 1993, 3153-3156; Witham et al., Appl. Env. Microbiol. 62, 1996, 1347-1353)*, has shown that the genes encoding verotoxins are associated with the pathogenic bacterial strains *E. coli* O157 :H7 and other EHECs, but may also be present in nonpathogenic *E. coli* strains, or

possibly in other bacterial types such as *Shigella dysenteriae, Citrobacter freundii*, and the like.

Likewise, the adhesion protein called intimin is also involved in the virulence of EHEC-type bacteria. Probes have in particular been selected on the corresponding gene (*eae*) by Gannon *et al.* in *J. Clin. Microbiol. 31, 1993, 1268-1274*, Louie *et al.* in *Epidemiol. Infect. 112, 1994, 449-461* and Meng *et al.* in *Int. J. Food Microbiol. 32, 1996, 103-113*. However, although this virulence factor is closely associated with the EHEC group, it is also found in enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC) comprising serotype O55 :H7.

Finally, probes have been selected on a plasmid of 60 MDa, encoding, inter alia, enterohaemolysin, a virulence factor also present in many EHECs (*Levine et al., J. Infect. Dis. 156, 1987, 175-182; Schmidt et al., Infect. Immun. 63, 1995, 1055-1061*). Thus, patent US 5,475,098 relates to the nucleic sequences contained in the enterohaemolysin operon, corresponding to the *hlyA* and *hlyB* genes and to the *hlyA-hlyB* intergenic region. The claimed oligonucleotide sequences allow specific detection of the EHECs, but the invention does not make it possible to differentiate *E. coli* O157 :H7 from the other EHECs. Moreover, patent US 5,652,102 describes a nucleic sequence situated on a restriction fragment derived from the plasmid of 60 MDa. However, the use of oligonucleotides derived from this sequence in a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) does not allow, on its own, the specific identification of serotype O157 :H7, and consequently requires the joint use of primers amplifying the genes encoding verotoxins and intimin.

The plasmid p0157, isolated from an *E. coli* 0157:H7 strain obtained from a clinical sample, has recently been described in its entirety (*Makino et al., DNA Research 5, 1998, 1-9*). Mapping of the plasmid representing the order of the different genes on the genome of the plasmid indicates the presence of 186

open reading frames (ORF). However, the absence of data on the nucleic sequence (data not available at the time of publishing the article) in no case makes it possible to identify a region of diagnostic interest for the specific detection of *E. coli* 0157:H7.

Recently, patent application WO 97/32045 relates to oligonucleotides selected from a chromosomal sequence obtained by the RAPD (Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA) method, leading to the detection of about 99.5% of *E. coli* O157 :H7, but the claimed nucleic sequences also detect nearly 3% of non-EHEC *E. coli*, which is not satisfactory in terms of specificity in particular in the agri-foodstuffs sector.

The main disadvantage of all these detection systems therefore consists in the fact that none of them makes it possible to establish clearly and simply the identification of the *E. coli* O157 :H7 serotype. It is indeed very often necessary to combine several amplification and/or detection systems in order to make the result accurate. The protocols used are then difficult to carry out (multiple, simultaneous amplifications) and the results obtained, as regards sensitivity and specificity, are highly dependent, not only on the nucleic targets used, but also on the operating conditions.

However, as was indicated above, this serotype can cause serious syndromes which can lead to death, which implies rapid and reliable means of detection, in particular in case of an epidemic.

The work by the inventors consisted in testing for specific sequences from an *E. coli* O157 :H7 genomic library, allowing the recognition of the principal *E. coli* serotypes pathogenic for humans, and more particularly O157 :H7. The library was screened against enteropathogenic *E. coli* O55 :H7, presumed ancestor of serotype O157 :H7, the two genomes being extremely closely related according to the polymorphism analyses

carried out by T. Whittam *et al.* in *Infect. Immun. 61, 1993, 1619-1629.*

This work made it possible to isolate two nucleic fragments of interest for the detection of EHECs and more particularly for the detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7, comprising the nucleic sequences SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2, situated on the enterohaemolytic plasmid of 60 MDa. The corresponding clones pDF3 and pDF4 containing these sequences were deposited at the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes of Institut Pasteur, respectively under the numbers I-1999 and I-2000, on 26 March 1998.

Surprisingly, a first sequence (SEQ ID No. 1) has been identified which comprises the stable combination of a portion of the insertion sequence IS*91* and of the sequence derived from the *E. coli* O157 :H7 *katP* gene or of a portion thereof, the nucleic chain resulting therefrom, never described elsewhere, being specifically found in *E. coli* O157 :H7.

The *katP* gene, encoding a catalase-peroxidase, is present on the enterohaemolytic plasmid of *E. coli* O157 :H7 and of numerous EHECs (*Brunder et al., Microbiol. 142, 1996, 3305-3315*), and the insertion sequence IS*91*, identified on the α-haemolytic plasmids of *E. coli* (*Zabala et al., J. Bacteriol. 151, 1982, 472-476*), has still never been described in *E. coli* O157 :H7 type enterohaemolytic strains.

The identification of a truncated insertion sequence at the level of the IS*91*-*katP* junction (absence of the left inverted repeat sequence (IR_L) from IS*91*) also suggests a stable integration of IS*91* into this portion of the *E. coli* O157 :H7 genome.

Analysis of the amplified products of a large number of O157 :H7 strains of various origins demonstrates the conservation of this nucleotide chain within the O157 :H7 serotype.

Indeed, an amplified product of 670 base pairs was observed in all the strains tested (55 *E. coli* O157 :H7 and 1 *E. coli* O157 :H-) with the primers SEQ ID No.

3 and SEQ ID No. 4, situated respectively in the sequences IS*91* and *katP*.

Moreover, the data obtained from the *Alu*I and *Rsa*I restriction profiles produced on the amplified products of 5 O157 :H7 strains of different origins, as well as the sequence analysis performed on 3 strains, including 2 isolated from epidemics (USA, 1993 and Japan, 1996), showed a perfect conservation, that is to say 100% homology, in the sequence portion analysed (SEQ ID No. 1 : positions (nt) 272 to 624).

Furthermore, the stable and conserved nucleotide chain is probably a relatively old recombination event which occurred in *E. coli* O157 :H7 during evolution since strains isolated in different places and periods exhibit this same characteristic.

This sequence therefore represents a preferred target for the specific detection of serotype O157 :H7.

A second sequence was characterized (SEQ ID No. 2) on the same plasmid, associated with the presence of the virulence factors enterohaemolysin (*ehly*) and intimin (*eae*), characters which are specific to the enterohaemorrhagic *E. coli* strains, comprising serotype O157 :H7. In this regard, this fragment is of epidemiological interest because, unlike the methods already known, which require the use of several molecular systems (*Paton and Paton, J. Clin. Microbiol. 36, 1998, 598-602*), the use of this sequence for a diagnostic application results in a simplified use and in a more rapid interpretation of the results.

The subject of the present invention is therefore the nucleic sequences SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2, their complementary sequences, the sequences derived therefrom and the fragments which can be used for the specific detection of EHECs, in a food, clinical, veterinary or environmental sample.

The subject of the present invention is more particularly a specific sequence for the detection of serotype *E. coli* O157 :H7, comprising the sequence SEQ

ID No. 1, a fragment of this sequence or a sequence derived therefrom.

According to the invention, the sequence SEQ ID No. 1 comprises a nucleotide chain resulting from a stable recombination event between the sequence of the *katP* gene or a portion thereof and a truncated insertion sequence IS*91*.

According to the present invention, the expression nucleic sequence is understood to mean either the DNA or complementary DNA (cDNA) sequence, or alternatively the corresponding RNA sequence.

The invention also relates to the nucleic sequences derived from SEQ ID No. 1 or SEQ ID No. 2, that is to say the sequences differing by mutation, insertion, deletion and/or substitution of one or more bases but nevertheless hybridizing, under conditions of high stringency, with one of the abovementioned sequences.

According to the invention, the expression high stringency is understood to mean temperature and ionic strength conditions such that they allow specific hybridization between two complementary nucleic acid fragments and limit the nonspecific attachments (*Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning, Second Edition (1989), 9.47-9.62*). The temperature conditions are generally between (T_m minus 5°C) and (T_m minus 10°C) when one of the hybrid sequences is short (about twenty nucleotides), T_m being the theoretical melting temperature, defined as being the temperature at which 50% of the paired strands separate.

The expression nucleic sequence derived from SEQ ID No. 1 is also understood to mean, according to the invention, any sequence differing from the latter by mutation, insertion, deletion and/or substitution of one or more bases and comprising a chain for stable recombination between the *katP* gene and the truncated insertion sequence IS*91*.

More particularly, the nucleic sequences contain at least 8, preferably 10, or most preferably

14 consecutive nucleotides of the chain of Figure 1, and comprise the nucleotides from position 400 to position 407.

The subject of the present invention is also a second sequence, specific for EHECs, which is SEQ ID No. 2, the sequences complementary thereto, the fragments thereof and the sequences derived therefrom, these sequences being always detected in EHECs, in particular in EHECs jointly possessing the genes encoding enterohaemolysin (*ehly*) and intimin (*eae*); said sequence SEQ ID No. 2 being represented in Figure 2.

The invention also relates to oligonucleotide fragments derived from the sequences SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2, which can be used as primers in an amplification procedure or as probe in the context of the use of a method of detection, comprising at least 8, advantageously at least 10, more advantageously 14 nucleotides, and preferably up to 30 consecutive nucleotides of the nucleotide chain of SEQ ID No. 1 or SEQ ID No. 2, said primers being capable of hybridizing with the said sequences under high stringency conditions, as defined above.

The primers or probes of the invention also comprise oligonucleotides which can be modified by substitution and/or addition and/or suppression of several nucleotides, or by the addition at one of the ends (generally in 5' for the primers; 3' or 5' for the probes) of a nucleic sequence which is foreign to the desired sequence, or alternatively of a labelling molecule, the said oligonucleotides being nevertheless capable of hybridizing under high stringency conditions with complementary nucleic sequences present in *E. coli* O157 :H7 or in the EHECs.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the oligonucleotides may be used as primers, in a gene amplification procedure, leading to the production of a large quantity of copies of a fragment of SEQ ID No. 1 or of a fragment of SEQ ID No. 2 and

allowing respectively the specific detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7 or of the EHECs.

The amplification step may be carried out by any method using conventional methods of enzymatic amplification of DNA or RNA, such as in particular the TAS (Transcription-based Amplification System) technique proposed by Kwoh *et al.* in *PNAS, 86, 1989, 1173-1177*, the 3SR (Self-Sustained Sequence Replication) technique described by Fahy *et al.* in *PCR Meth. Appl. 1, 1991, 25-33*, the NASBA (Nucleic Acid Sequence-Based Amplification) technique described in patent EP 329 822, or alternatively the SDA (Strand Displacement Amplification) technique described by Walker *et al.* in *P.N.A.S, 89, 1992, 392-396*, or advantageously the PCR technique as described in particular in European patents EP 200 362 and EP 201 184 granted in the name of Cetus, or alternatively the techniques derived from the latter and any other method desired for amplifying nucleic sequences *in vitro*.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the oligonucleotides derived from the sequences SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2 are used in PCR.

The detection of the amplified products may be carried out by gel electrophoresis of all or part of the reaction medium in which the amplification was carried out, in particular on agarose or polyacrylamide gel, or by capillary electrophoresis or chromatography. Visualization of a band of nucleic fragments which is localized at a specific point on the gel makes it possible to assess the size, it being possible for the intensity of this band to be roughly correlated with the number of initial copies of the target to be detected in the sample.

According to another embodiment of the invention, the oligonucleotides, as defined above, may be used as probes in a hybridization procedure for the direct detection of a target nucleic sequence or, after amplification, for the detection of the amplified products.

By way of illustration, the nucleotide fragments may be labelled with a radioactive element (for example ^{32}P, ^{35}S, ^{35}H, ^{125}I) or with a nonradioactive molecule, in particular biotin, acetylaminofluorene, fluorochrome, digoxigenin, or with an enzymatic molecule, or a hapten. Examples of nonradioactive labellings of probes are described, for example, in French patent by *P. Kourilsky No. 78.10975*, or by M.S. Urdea *et al., Nucleic Acids Symp. Ser., 24. 1991, 197-200*, or alternatively by R. Sanchez-Pescador, *J. Clin. Microbiol. 26, 1988, 1934-1938.*

The most general hybridization method consists in immobilizing the nucleic acid extracted from the sample to be analysed on a support (nitrocellulose, nylon, polystyrene and the like) and in incubating the immobilized nucleic acid with the probe under defined temperature and ionic strength conditions. After hybridization, the excess probe is removed and the hybridized molecules formed are detected by the appropriate method (measurement of the radioactivity, of the fluorescence or of the enzymatic activity linked to the probe).

The hybrid molecules formed may also be detected without it being necessary to separate the "bound" and "unbound" phases. It is then said that the detection is carried out in a homogeneous phase. These methods, as described by T. Walker *et al. Clin. Chemistry 42, 1996, 9-13* and L. Morrison *(Nonisotopic DNA Probe Techniques, Academic Press, 1992, 312-352)* relate in particular to fluorescence polarization, in which a probe is labelled with fluroescein and where the hybridization causes modification of fluorescence, or alternatively the transfer of energy. In the latter case, the detection is based on inter- or intramolecular interactions between two markers. A first marker called "donor" is excited by absorption of light at a particular wavelength. The energy is transferred to a second marker called "acceptor", which in turn is excited and emits energy.

The oligonucleotide probes may also be used in a detection device comprising an array arrangement of oligonucleotides in which oligonucleotides of a given length are attached in a predetermined order onto a support and overlap with each other by one or more bases; each oligonucleotide being complementary to a DNA or RNA sequence of the target sequence to be detected. The target sequence, which is advantageously labelled, is brought into contact with the array device and can hybridize with the probes attached to the support. An enzymatic treatment then makes it possible to eliminate the incomplete hybrids. Knowing the sequence of a probe at a determined position of the array, it is thus possible to deduce the nucleotide sequence of the target sequence analysed and to deduce the possible mutations which have occurred.

An alternative to the use of a labelled sequence may consist of the use of a support allowing a "bioelectronic" detection of the hybridization of the target sequence with the probes attached onto the support of a material, such as gold, capable of acting, for example, as electron donor at the positions of the array in which a hybrid is formed. The detection of the target nucleic sequence is then determined by an electronic device. An exemplary embodiment of a biosensor is described in patent application EP-0721 016 in the name of Affymax Technologies.

According to a simple and advantageous embodiment, the nucleic probes may be used as capture probes. In this case, the probe termed "capture probe" is immobilized on a support and serves to capture, by specific hybridization, the target nucleic acid from the sample to be tested. If necessary, the solid support is separated from the sample and the duplex formed between the capture probe and the target nucleic acid sequence is then detected by means of a second probe termed "detection probe", labelled with a detectable element. Advantageously, the capture and detection probes are complementary to two different

regions inside the target sequence (amplified or otherwise) to be detected.

The attachment of the capture probe onto the solid support may be made according to methods well known to a person skilled in the art, in particular by passive adsorption or by covalent coupling (*Cook et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 16, 1988, 4077-4095; Nagata et al., FEBS Lett. 183, 1985, 379-382; M. Longlaru et al., EP 420 260 A2; T. Gingeras et al., EP 276 302; E Hornes and L.M Kornes, EP 446 260).*

The hybridization of the capture and detection probes may occur separately (in two stages) or simultaneously (at the same time), in particular according to one of the methods described by Langhale and Malcolm, *Gene 36, 1985, 201-210* or by Ranki *et al, Gene 21, 1993, 77-85,* by Dunn and Hassel, *Cell, 12, 1977, 23-36* or alternatively by Ranki and Soderlund in patents US 4,486,539 and US 4,563,419.

The subject of the present application is therefore also oligonucleotides derived from SEQ ID No. 1 or from SEQ ID No. 2, selected as primers or probes, capable of hybridizing, under stringent conditions, with a target nucleic acid sequence contained in the tested sample, specific for *E. coli* O157 :H7 or EHECs.

The expression target nucleic sequence is understood to mean any DNA or cDNA or RNA molecule capable of hybridizing under high stringency conditions with an oligonucleotide according to the invention.

The preferred oligonucleotides whose sequences are specified in the annex correspond to the positions on the sequences SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2 reported in the table below:

Sequence	Position in SEQ ID No. 1
SEQ ID No. 3:	9 - 30
SEQ ID No. 4:	679 - 658
SEQ ID No. 5:	6 - 30

SEQ ID No. 6:	682 - 658
SEQ ID No. 7:	241 - 263
SEQ ID No. 8:	47 - 69
SEQ ID No. 9:	251 - 274
SEQ ID No. 10:	426 - 401
SEQ ID No. 11:	427 - 402
SEQ ID No. 12:	391 - 421
SEQ ID No. 13:	387 - 417
SEQ ID No. 14:	291 - 321
SEQ ID No. 15:	510 - 540
SEQ ID No. 16:	331 - 350
SEQ ID No. 17:	68 - 87
SEQ ID No. 18:	397 - 410
SEQ ID No. 19:	396 - 411
SEQ ID No. 20:	395 - 412
SEQ ID No. 21:	718 - 739
SEQ ID No. 22:	1099 1078
SEQ ID No. 23:	41 - 60
SEQ ID No. 24:	884 - 863
SEQ ID No. 25:	928 - 958
SEQ ID No. 26:	970 - 1000
SEQ ID No. 27:	883 - 903

The invention also relates to oligonucleotide pairs, as described above, which can be used as primers for the amplification of a target nucleic sequence corresponding to SEQ ID No. 1 or SEQ ID No. 2, contained in the genome of *E. coli* O157 :H7 or of the EHECs:

The preferred pairs of primers are the following:

- for the amplification of *E. coli* O157 :H7:
  - SEQ ID No. 3 and SEQ ID No. 4
  - SEQ ID No. 5 and SEQ ID No. 6
  - SEQ ID No. 6 and SEQ ID No. 7
  - SEQ ID No. 6 and SEQ ID No. 8
  - SEQ ID No. 6 and SEQ ID No. 9
- for amplification of the EHECs:
  - SEQ ID No. 21 and SEQ ID No. 22

- SEQ No. 23 and SEQ ID No. 24

Thus, the use of the pair of primers SEQ ID No. 5 and SEQ ID No. 6 for carrying out the amplification of the nucleic acid of *E. coli* O157 :H7 leads to the amplification of a nucleic fragment of 676 bp, characteristic of the *E. coli* O157 :H7 strains. The specificity of this fragment may be controlled, where appropriate, by the use of the probe SEQ ID No. 18.

Likewise, the use of the pair of primers SEQ ID No. 21 and SEQ ID No. 22 specifically amplifies a nucleic sequence of 382 bp, present in EHECs, which also possesses the enterohaemolysin and intimin characters. The bacteria belonging to the other *E. coli* groups, such as the ETECs (enterotoxin-producing *E. coli*), the EPECs and the like, are not detected. The specificity of the amplified product can moreover be confirmed with the aid of oligonucleotide probes internal to the amplified fragment, such as SEQ ID No. 27.

The subject of the present invention is also oligonucleotides, as described above, which can be used as probes for the detection of an optionally amplified nucleotide sequence. For example, the oligonucleotide sequences SEQ ID No. 14, SEQ ID No. 15 and SEQ ID No. 18 may be used for the specific detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7. Likewise, the use of the sequences SEQ ID No. 25, SEQ ID No. 26 and SEQ ID No. 27 allows the detection of EHECs including O157 :H7.

The subject of the invention is also the plasmids containing the sequences SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2 mentioned above as well as the host cells containing them.

The invention also relates to a method for the *in vitro* detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7 or EHECs in a sample, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

1. bringing the sample into contact with one of the pairs of primers, as described above, the nucleic acid contained in the sample having been, where

appropriate, made accessible to the hybridization of the primers with the nucleic acid of the target tested for,

2. amplifying the nucleic sequence flanked by the pair of primers chosen,

3. it being possible to carry out the verification of the possible presence of the amplified product according to a method known to persons skilled in the art, as described above.

According to an advantageous embodiment, the amplified fragments may be detected according to the principle of the so-called "sandwich" method.

Also falling within the scope of the invention is a method for the *in vitro* detection of previously amplified nucleotide sequences specific for *E. coli* O157 :H7 or EHECs, by detection on a support, for example a microtiter plate and, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- denaturation of the amplified sequence of *E. coli* O157 :H7 and/or EHECs by a physical or chemical means. The addition of a denaturing solution composed of 200 mM NaOH, 40 mM EDTA will be preferred,

- bringing denatured amplified fragments into contact, in an appropriate hybridization buffer, with, on the one hand, at least one capture probe attached to the support, and on the other hand, at least one free detection nucleic probe in the hybridization buffer, optionally labelled, capable of hybridizing with the same strand of the amplified fragments as that with which the capture probe is hybridized, but in a region different from that hybridized with the capture probe; it being possible for the said hybridization solution to be advantageously 5-fold concentrated SSPE (*Sodium Saline Phosphate EDTA; Molecular Cloning, A practical guide, Sambrook et al., Vol. 3, 1989, annexe B13*), 0.5% Tween 20, 0.01% Merthiolate,

- incubation of the reaction mixture for a sufficiently long period to allow the hybridization; it

being possible for this incubation, for example, to be advantageously performed at 37°C for about 1 hour,

- one or more washings of the preceding mixture, in order to remove any unreacted nucleic sequence; it being possible for the said washings, for example, to be carried out with a solution containing 10 mM Tris-HCl, 300 mM NaCl and 0.1% Tween 20, pH 7.4,

- visualization of the detection probes hybridized with the amplified nucleic sequences.

According to an advantageous embodiment of the invention, the detection probe is labelled with peroxidase, and the activity of the peroxidase linked to the hybridized detection probe is visualized by colorimetric reading, in the presence of a chromogenic substrate, according to the following steps:

- deposition of a solution containing a chromogenic substrate, such as tetramethylbenzidine (TMB), in each of the wells containing the reaction mixture, and incubation, in the dark, of the microplate for a sufficient period, generally 20 to 30 min, and then the reaction is stopped by the addition of a blocking solution, the said solution being advantageously an H_2SO_4 solution used at a final concentration of 0.5 N,

- determination of the optical density, the said determination being carried out at a wavelength of 450 nm (reference 620 nm) when TMB is used as chromogenic substrate.

According to a particularly advantageous embodiment, the capture probe used for the detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7 may be SEQ ID No. 15 and the detection probe is the oligonucleotide SEQ ID No. 18. Likewise, the capture probe used for the detection of EHEC bacteria may be SEQ ID No. 25 and the detection probe of the oligonucleotide SEQ ID No. 27.

The invention also relates to a detection kit, for the identification of *E. coli* O157 :H7 or EHECs, contained in a sample, comprising among the reagents:

- at least two oligonucleotides as defined above, used as primers for the amplification of *E. coli* O157 :H7 or of the bacteria of the EHEC group,

- optionally, a component for verifying the sequence of the amplified fragment, more particularly a nucleic probe as defined above.

The following examples are given without limitation to illustrate the invention.

EXAMPLE 1

Characterization of the sequences SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2

1) Construction of the *E. coli* O157 :H7 genomic library:

The genomic DNA for the *E. coli* O157 :H7 strain isolated from stools from a patient suffering from haemorrhagic colitis and producing type 1 and 2 verotoxins was partially digested with the endonuclease *PstI* (Boehringer Mannheim, Ref. 621625) by allowing 0.03 enzyme unit to act per µg of DNA in buffered medium for 1 hour at 37°C. The genomic DNA thus digested made it possible to generate fragments of 35-45 kb. The cosmid pHC79 (*Hohn and Murray, Proc. Natl. Acad, Sci 74, 1977, 3259-3263*) was digested in the same manner and dephosphorylated so as to avoid any self-ligation.

The ligation was carried out by mixing 900 ng of vector and 2.6 µg of DNA fragments of 35-45 kb (that is a vector/insert molar ratio of 2), the reaction medium being left at 14°C for 18 hours after having been supplemented with 2 units of T4 DNA ligase (Boehringer Mannheim; Ref. 481220). The recombinant cosmids were encapsidated *in vitro* and used to transform the *E. coli* XL1-Blue MR bacteria (Stratagene; Ref. 200300). The transformed bacteria were incubated for 1 hour at 37°C in LB medium (*Luria-Bertani, Molecular Cloning, A practical guide, Sambrook et al., Vol. 3, 1989, annexe A1*). The DNA fragments of 35-45 kb being inserted into the vector pHC79 so as to abolish

the ampicillin resistance site and to conserve the tetracycline resistance site, the bacteria were then plated on selective agar medium containing 12.5 µg/ml of tetracycline.

Mini preparations of cosmid DNA were produced from the first 360 colonies isolated on tetracycline using the REAL Prep96 Kit distributed by Quiagen (reference 26171).

The DNA of these preparation was then digested with the endonucleases *PstI*, *EcoRI* and *SalI* (Boehringer Mannheim, Ref. 621625, 703737 and 567663), analysed by electrophoresis on 1.2% agarose gel and then transferred onto Hybond N^+ nylon filter (Amersham, Ref. RPN 303B). The DNA was irreversibly fixed by exposure to UV for 5 min.

2) Screening of the library:

The hybridizations were carried out with a homologous DNA probe obtained from the *E. coli* O157 :H7 strain (Collection de l'Institut Pasteur, No. 103571) and with a heterologous DNA probe consisting of a "pool" of DNA obtained from 8 *E. coli* 055 :H7 strains (Collection de l'Institut Pasteur, No. 105215, 105216, 105217, 105228, 105239, 105240, 105241, 105242).

The various filters were hybridized for 16 to 18 hours at 65°C in a solution containing 6-fold concentrated SSC buffer (*Sodium Saline Citrate; Molecular Cloning, A practical guide, Sambrook et al., Vol. 3, 1989, annexe B13*), 5-fold concentrated Denhart's solution (*Molecular Cloning, Vol. 3, 1989, annexe B15*), 10% Dextran sulphate (Pharmacia Biotech, Ref. 17-0340-02), 10 mM EDTA, 0.5% SDS, 100 µg/ml single-stranded salmon sperm DNA and the relevant DNA (O157 :H7).

After hybridization, the filters were washed twice 10 min in a 2-fold concentrated SSC buffer at 65°C, once 30 min in a buffer containing 2-fold concentrated SSC and 0.1% SDS at 65°C and then once 10 min in SSC diluted 1/10 at 65°C. The filters, which

are still wet, were exposed in a cassette with an intensifying screen for 24 to 48 hours at -80°C.

After the necessary exposure time, the films were developed and then the nylon membranes dehybridized by performing 4 to 5 bathing cycles at 45°C, with stirring. For each cycle, two successive baths of 30 min in a 0.5 N NaOH solution and then 30 min in a buffer containing SSC diluted 1/10 and 0.1% SDS were performed. The membranes were finally washed in 2-fold concentrated SSC and placed in a cassette in order to verify that no traces of hybridization remain. After dehybridization, the filters were hybridized in the same manner as above with a pool of nonrelevant DNA (O55 :H7).

3) Isolation and cloning of the fragments SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2:

The results of these hybridizations made it possible to identify two cosmid clones from which one fragment of about 1 to 2 kb, hybridizing with the homologous probe and not hybridizing with the heterologous probe, was isolated respectively. After having verified their conservation in various O157 :H7 strains by "dot-blot" hybridization, these fragments were cloned into a vector pUC18 (Oncor Appligene Ref. 161131) and then prepared in a large quantity. The recombinant plasmids were called pDF3 and pDF4 and correspond respectively to the sequences SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2.

4) Determination of the sequences SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2

The fragments were sequenced according to the Sanger *et al.* method described in *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 74, 1977, 5463*, using the "universal primer" and the "reverse primer" of the plasmid pUC18, as well as oligonucleotides internal to the sequences.

The sequence SEQ ID No. 1 (Figure 1), containing 1489 bp, exhibits 99.9% homology with the *katP* gene of *E. coli* O157 :H7 in the region 407 to 1489

and a 95.8% homology with the IS*91* of *E. coli* in the region 1 to 406.

The analysis of the sequence SEQ ID No. 2 (Figure 2), containing 1181 bp, reveals no known sequence of the enterohaemolytic plasmid. Only the portion 237 to 570 exhibits 68% homology with the *vir*K plasmid gene encoding a *Shigella flexneri* virulence protein.

EXAMPLE 2

Specific detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7

The specificity study was performed on 100 *E. coli* strains of different serotypes and 42 non-*E. coli* strains comprising, inter alia, bacteria capable of cross-reacting with *E. coli* O157 :H7 such as for example *Salmonella, Shigella dysenteriae, Citrobacter freundii, Hafnia alvei, Escherichia hermanii*.

1) Extraction of the DNA:

The DNA sequences are obtained by the method of boiling in the presence of Chelex (InstaGene™ Matrix, Biorad). The samples were prepared according to the following protocol:

A bacterial suspension is produced in sterile ultrapure water from several bacterial colonies isolated on Tryptone-Casein-soybean agar (Sanofi Diagnostics Pasteur, Ref. 53455), and then centrifuged at 10,000-12,000 revolutions/min for 2-3 min and the supernatant carefully removed. The bacterial pellet is resuspended in 200 µl of lysis reagent, homogenized and then incubated in a heating block at 100°C for 10-15 min. The sample is again homogenized and then centrifuged at 10,000-12,000 revolutions/min for 2-3 min. The DNA can be amplified directly or stored at -20°C.

2) Amplification by PCR:

The amplification reaction is carried out in a total volume of 15 µl containing 50 mM KCl; 10 mM Tris-HCl pH8.3; 0.01% gelatin; 3 mM $MgCl_2$; 0.25 µM of each

primer SEQ ID No. 5 and SEQ ID No. 6; 100 µM (dATP, dCTP, dGTP); 400 µM dUTP; 0.5 unit of Uracyl-DNA-Glycosylase (UDG; BRL Life Technologies); one unit of Taq DNA Polymerase (BRL Life Technologies) and 5 µl of DNA prepared as indicated in paragraph 1.

After incubating at 50°C for 2 min and then at 95°C for 5 min, the samples are subjected to 35 amplification cycles composed of 15 sec at 95°C, 15 sec at 65°C and 15 sec at 72°C. The tubes are kept at 72°C until the plate is removed.

The thermal cycles are performed in a "Perkin-Elmer 9600" thermocycler.

Each experiment comprises a positive control and a negative control.

3) Visualization of the amplified products:

The amplification reactions are visualized on agarose gel or detected on microplate.

3-1) Agarose gel:

After amplification, 15 µl of chloroform are added to each sample in order to inactivate the UDG and then one aliquot of each reaction is analysed by electrophoresis on 1.2% agarose gel stained with ethidium bromide, in the presence of a size marker. Visualization of a DNA fragment at 676 bp indicates the presence of *E.coli* O157 :H7 in the sample tested.

3-2) Hybridization in microplate:

The amplification products are denatured by addition, volume for volume, of a solution containing 200 mM NaOH, 40 mM EDTA. The microplate, in which the surface of the wells is coated with the capture probe SEQ ID No. 15, is prehybridized in a hybridization buffer containing 5-fold concentrated SSPE, 0.5% Tween 20 and 0.01% Merthiolate. Next, the microplate is emptied and each of the wells receives 200 µl of hybridization buffer containing the denatured amplified fragment and the revealing probe SEQ ID No. 18. The incubation is performed at 37°C, with stirring, for 1 hour.

The wells are then washed six times with 400 µl of solution (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4; 300mM NaCl and 0.1% Tween 20), and then the activity of the peroxidase bound to the probe is detected by adding to each well 200 µl of a detection solution containing the chromogene tetramethylbenzidine (TMB). The microplate is incubated at 37°C, in the dark, for 30 min and then 100 µl of a 1.5 N H_2SO_4 solution are added in order to block the reactions. The optical density values are determined at 450 nm against a reference at 620 nm.

4) Study of specificity:

The tests were performed on a total of 142 bacterial strains, using the pair of primers SEQ ID No. 5 and SEQ ID No. 6 for the PCR amplification step, the capture probe SEQ ID No. 15 and the detection probe SEQ ID No. 18 for the hybridization step on microplates.

The results obtained on microplates with the *E. coli* strains and non-*E. coli* strains (bacteria of different genera and species) are presented respectively in Tables I and II below:

Table I

E. coli strain (serotype)	Number of strains tested	PCR SEQ ID No. 5/6
VTEC/EHEC		
O157:H7	55	+
O157:H-	1	+
O26:H11	10	-
O111:H-	2	-
O145:H-	2	-
O103:H2	2	-
O121:H19	1	-
O165:H25	1	-
O45:H2	1	-
O22:H8	2	-
O137:H41	1	-
O91:H21	1	-
O141:H4	1	-
EPEC		
O55:H7	8	-
O55:H6	1	-
O55:H-	1	-
O111:H-	1	-
O111:H2	1	-
O111:H12	1	-
O128:H2	1	-
O127:H6	1	-
ETEC		
O157:H19	1	-
O159:H34	1	-
CIP 81.86	1	-
E. Coli		
CIP 76.24	1	-
CIP 54.8	1	-

The (+) results correspond to OD_{450} > 2.5.

The (-) results correspond to OD_{450} < 0.05.

Table II

Strain (bacterial species)	Number of strains tested	PCR SEQ ID No. 5/6
Salmonella		
Salmonella (Groups I to VI)	10	-
Shigella		
Shigella flexneri	2	-
Shigella dysenteriae	1	-
Shigella sonnei	1	-
Others		
Escherichia hermanii	2	-
Citrobacter freundii	2	-
Yersinia enterocolitica	2	-
Yersinia pseudotuberculosis	1	-
Hafnia alvei	1	-
Proteus mirabilis	1	-
Proteus vulgaris	1	-
Serratia marcescens	1	-
Klebsiella pneumoniae	2	-
Klebsiella oxytoca	1	-
Enterobacter cloacae	1	-
Enterobacter aerogenes	1	-
Enterobacter agglomerans	1	-
Bacillus subtilis	1	-
Morganella morganii	1	-
Providencia alcalifaciens	1	-
Vibrio parahaemolyticus	1	-
Acinetobacter baumanii	1	-
Shewanella putrefaciens	1	-
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	1	-
Pseudomonas fluorescens	1	-
Listeria monocytogenes	3	-

The (+) results correspond to $OD_{450} > 2.5$.

The (-) results correspond to $OD_{450} < 0.05$.

In conclusion, only the O157 :H7 and O157 :H- strains are detected on microplates with the abovementioned system.

EXAMPLE 3

Specific detection of EHECs

The specificity was tested on a total of 142 bacterial strains including various serotypes of *E. coli* as well as other bacterial species which can interfere with the detection of the EHECs.

The DNAs were extracted according to the protocol described in the first paragraph of Example 2.

The amplification conditions are the following: The reaction is carried out in a total volume of 50 µl containing 50 mM KCl; 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.3; 1.5 mM $MgCl_2$; 0.5 µM of each primer SEQ ID No. 21 and SEQ ID No. 22; 200 µM (dATP, dCTP, dGTP, dTTP); one unit of Taq DNA Polymerase (BRL Life Technologies) and 5 µl of DNA prepared as indicated in paragraph 1 of Example 2.

The thermal cycles are performed in a "Perkin-Elmer 9600" thermocycler.

Each experiment comprises a positive control and a negative control.

The amplification products were visualized on agarose gel stained with EtBr, the presence of a band at 382 bp indicating the presence of EHEC in the sample tested.

The results are presented in Table III.

Only the strains exhibiting the *ehly* and *eae* characters, virulence factors frequently associated in the strains isolated from human infections, are detected by PCR with the pair of primers SEQ ID No. 21 and SEQ ID No. 22.

Furthermore, the use of the said pair of primers also makes it possible to detect in particular, by means of a single amplification reaction, the *E. coli* strains possessing the genotype (vt^+, eae^+ and $ehly^+$), characteristic of the enterohaemorrhagic *E. coli*.

Table III

Strain (serotype)	Number of strains tested	Genotype	PCR SEQ ID No. 21/22
VTEC/EHEC			
O157:H7	54	vt+, ehly+, eae+	+
	1	vt-, ehly+, eae+	+
O157:H-	1	vt+, ehly+, eae+	+
O26:H11	5	vt+, ehly+, eae+	+
	1	vt-, ehly+, eae+	+
O26:H-	1	vt+, ehly+, eae+	+
O111:H-	1	vt+, ehly+, eae+	+
O145:H-	2	vt+, ehly+, eae+	+
O103:H2	2	vt+, ehly+, eae+	+
O121:H19	1	vt+, ehly+, eae+	+
O165:H25	1	vt+, ehly+, eae+	+
O45:H2	1	vt+, ehly+, eae+	+
O22:H8	2	vt+, ehly+, eae-	-
O137:H41	1	vt+, ehly+, eae-	-
O91:H21	1	vt+, ehly+, eae-	-
O26:H11	3	vt+, ehly-, eae+	-
O111:H-	1	vt+, ehly-, eae+	-
O141:H4	1	vt+, ehly-, eae-	-
EPEC			
O55:H7	8	vt-, ehly-, eae+	-
O55:H6	1	vt-, ehly-, eae-	-
O55:H-	1	vt-, ehly-, eae-	-
O111:H-	1	vt-, ehly-, eae-	-
O111:H2	1	vt-, ehly-, eae+	-
O111:H12	1	vt-, ehly-, eae-	-
O128:H2	1	vt-, ehly-, eae+	-
O127:H6	1	vt-, ehly-, eae+	-
ETEC			
O157:H19	1	vt-, ehly-, eae-	-
O159:H34	1	vt-, ehly-, eae-	-
CIP 81.86	1	vt-, ehly-, eae-	-
E. coli			
CIP 76.24	1	vt-, ehly-, eae-	-
CIP 54.8	1	vt-, ehly-, eae-	-
non-E. coli	42		-

```
   1  CTGCAGTCCG  GAGATGAAAG  CACCACTGTG  TGTACCCCAT  CAGCGTGGTC
  51  CCGCAGGCCA  TGATTTTTGT  CACAGACTCA  ATGACTACCG  GACGCACTGA
 101  ACCTTCCGGT  TGTTTCTCCA  GCCAGTTAAG  CCAGCGGTTT  CCCTGCTGAA
 151  AAATGTCGGC  AAAACGGGGA  AGCATCAGAA  GGGCGGGGGA  ACTCCGTCCG
 201  GCCAGTGAAC  CGTGCCACAC  TCCGGGCAGT  ACATGCCGCC  GGCGCTGATA
 251  CCGGCAAGAA  TGGTCGCAAA  CTCCCGCTCC  GTGCAGCGGG  CTATTTCAGG
 301  ATACCCTTCG  TCATCAACAC  GTACAAACCA  GAAGACCAGC  TTTTTGTTTC
 351  TGACATCCAC  AAAGAAGGGA  ATATTCAGGT  CTGCGCAGCA  CTCAACGGCA
IS91 <------------------------> katP
 401  TCGTCAGTTG  CGGCTTGGAA  CCCCTTAGTA  TTTTTTGTCT  GTAGTATCTA
 451  TCCCAGCAAT  AGGTATATCC  TGTTGCATCA  ATAAAGTTGA  CTTTTGTATA
 501  CAACATGCGA  ATTTCCCTTA  ATCCGGAGCT  ATTCGTATGA  TAAAAAAAAC
 551  TCTTCCTGTT  CTGATTCTTC  TGGCGCTATC  GGGGAGCTTT  TCTACCGCTG
 601  TAGCCGCTGA  TAAAAAAGAG  ACTCAAAATT  TCTACTATCC  AGAAACACTG
 651  GATTTAACTC  CTCTGAGATT  ACACAGCCCT  GAATCAAATC  CCTGGGGGGC
 701  TGATTTTGAT  TATGCCACCA  GATTTCAACA  GCTGGATATG  GAGGCTCTGA
 751  AAAAAGATAT  CAAAGATTTG  CTGACAACTT  CCCAGGATTG  GTGCCCTGCG
 801  GATTATGGTC  ATTATGGTCC  TTTCTTTATT  CGTATGGCTT  GGCACGGTGC
 851  CGGAACATAC  AGGACATATG  ATGGCCGGGG  AGGCGCCAGT  GGTGGTCAGC
 901  AACGTTTTGA  ACCGCTGAAC  AGCTGGCCGG  ATAACGTTAA  TCTGGATAAA
 951  GCCCGTCGAT  TGCTGTGGCC  AGTCAAGAAA  AAATACGGCT  CCAGTATTTC
1001  CTGGGGAGAC  CTGATGGTCC  TGACTGGTAA  TGTTGCCCTT  GAATCCATGG
1051  GATTTAAAAC  GCTGGGATTT  GCTGGCGGAA  GAGAAGATGA  CTGGGAGTCG
1101  GACCTGGTAT  ACTGGGGGCC  TGACAACAAG  CCTCTTGCAG  ATAACCGGGA
1151  TAAAAACGGG  AAACTTCAGA  AACCTCTTGC  CGCCACGCAG  ATGGGACTTA
1201  TTTATGTCAA  TCCTGAAGGC  CCCGGTGGAA  AACCAGATCC  TCTGGCTTCC
1251  GCGAAAGATA  TCAGGGAAGC  TTTTTCACGT  ATGGCCATGG  ATGATGAGGA
1301  GACTGTGGCC  CTGATCGCGG  GAGGGCATAC  ATTTGGTAAA  GCACATGGTG
1351  CAGCGTCTCC  TGAAAAATGT  ATTGGCGCAG  GGCCTGATGG  TGCACCTGTG
1401  GAGGAGCAGG  GACTGGGATG  GAAAAATAAA  TGTGGTACAG  GAAACGGCAA
1451  ATATACCATC  ACCAGTGGCC  TGGAAGGAGC  CTGGTCGAC
```

FIG. 1

1	CTGCAGGAGA	TGGAAAAAAA	GCCAAAATAA	AAAATTGCCC	ATCCCAGCGC
51	GCTCCAGCTG	AAAGTAGGCC	TGTTCTGTCC	GGTATTTAAA	TGCATTGACC
101	GTCCCCGTAT	TTAAACAATG	TGATAAATTA	CTCCGTTACC	GGAAAACCGC
151	TGAACAAAAT	TCGGGCTGAA	AAGAGGATCC	GCCGTTATCT	GTTGCATTTC
201	CCCTTAGCCT	GACTAGCCAG	AGACACAATG	ATCTGTGCCG	TTCTGTTAAT
251	ATCAAACCGG	TACTCAATAT	CTTCTCTGGC	GCTGGCTGCC	ATCATCCGGA
301	AGCGTTCCGG	TCGGGATAAA	AAATCGCGCA	GTGCGCCGGT	CCATGCAGAC
351	ACATCCCCCA	CGGGTAACAG	CGTCCCTGTC	ACATTCTTCT	GAATGACATC
401	AGGGATCCCG	CCCGTCTCAC	TGGCGATAAC	GGGCACGCCG	GAGACTGACG
451	CTTCAGCCAG	TACCATACCA	AACGCTTCAT	TTTCCGAAGG	CATGACCACC
501	ACACTGGCAA	TCCGGTAGAC	CGGTAACGCT	GGGAAAAGGG	CACCTGCCAT
551	TAACACATCT	CCGCTCATTC	CCAGGTGTTC	TGTCTGCTGA	CGCAGACGTG
601	CTTCGTATTC	TTCACGCCCG	GCGCCCACCA	CGAGCCAGCG	AAATGATTTC
651	CCTTCCATCT	TCAGCTGATA	CAATACACGC	AGCATAAATT	CATGTCCTTT
701	TTCGGGACGT	AGCATCCCCA	CCTGAACGAT	AAGCGGAACA	TTGTCTGCTG
751	ATGCAGCCCA	GGCGTGGATA	TGCAGGGGTA	ACGGTCGCAT	GGCTTCATTA
801	TGCAATGCGG	GCCAGTCGAA	ACCCGGTGGA	ATAACCGTTA	CCGGTGTCCT
851	GACACCTTCC	GCCATCAGAT	GCGCCATCAT	GGGTGAGATA	GGCACAACAA
901	TGAAATCACA	CAGATAATTC	AGGGAAAACG	TTCTGGTCTT	ACGGGTGATG
951	TAGGTTTTTT	GTCTGACAAT	AGTGAAGCGG	TGACAGCATA	TCAGACGGCT
1001	CAGTCCTGCT	ATATTACTGT	CATGGCCACT	ATGGCAGATG	ACCAGATCAG
1051	GTTTAAATTC	CCCGATAATC	CGTCGAAGTC	TGAGGATGGA	AGGAAGGTGA
1101	AGGCTGTTCC	TGAAAGGAAT	AAAAGTGACA	TCATGCCCTC	TTTTTCTGGC
1151	TTCCGGAGCA	ATTTTACTTT	TTTCTCTGCA	G	

FIG. 2

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) General information

(i) Applicant:

(A) Name: Pasteur Sanofi Diagnostics

(B) Street: 3 Boulevard Raymond Poincare

(C) City: Marnes La Coquette

(D) Country: France

(E) Postal Code: 92430

(ii) Title of invention: Nucleotide sequences for the detection of enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli*

(iii) Number of sequences: 27

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 1:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 1489 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: double

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 1:

```
   1  CTGCAGTCCG  GAGATGAAAG  CACCACTGTG  TGTACCCCAT  CAGCGTGGTC
  51  CCGCAGGCCA  TGATTTTTGT  CACAGACTCA  ATGACTACCG  GACGCACTGA
 101  ACCTTCCGGT  TGTTTCTCCA  GCCAGTTAAG  CCAGCGGTTT  CCCTGCTGAA
 151  AAATGTCGGC  AAAACGGGGA  AGCATCAGAA  GGGCGGGGGA  ACTCCGTCCG
 201  GCCAGTGAAC  CGTGCCACAC  TCCGGGCAGT  ACATGCCGCC  GGCGCTGATA
 251  CCGGCAAGAA  TGGTCGCAAA  CTCCCGCTCC  GTGCAGCGGG  CTATTTCAGG
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301	ATACCCTTCG	TCATCAACAC	GTACAAACCA	GAAGACCAGC	TTTTTGTTTC
351	TGACATCCAC	AAAGAAGGGA	ATATTCAGGT	CTGCGCAGCA	CTCAACGGCA
401	TCGTCAGTTG	CGGCTTGGAA	CCCCTTAGTA	TTTTTTGTCT	GTAGTATCTA
451	TCCCAGCAAT	AGGTATATCC	TGTTGCATCA	ATAAAGTTGA	CTTTTGTATA
501	CAACATGCGA	ATTTCCCTTA	ATCCGGAGCT	ATTCGTATGA	TAAAAAAAAC
551	TCTTCCTGTT	CTGATTCTTC	TGGCGCTATC	GGGGAGCTTT	TCTACCGCTG
601	TAGCCGCTGA	TAAAAAAGAG	ACTCAAAATT	TCTACTATCC	AGAAACACTG
651	GATTTAACTC	CTCTGAGATT	ACACAGCCCT	GAATCAAATC	CCTGGGGGGC
701	TGATTTTGAT	TATGCCACCA	GATTTCAACA	GCTGGATATG	GAGGCTCTGA
751	AAAAAGATAT	CAAAGATTTG	CTGACAACTT	CCCAGGATTG	GTGCCCTGCG
801	GATTATGGTC	ATTATGGTCC	TTTCTTTATT	CGTATGGCTT	GGCACGGTGC
851	CGGAACATAC	AGGACATATG	ATGGCCGGGG	AGGCGCCAGT	GGTGGTCAGC
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951	GCCCGTCGAT	TGCTGTGGCC	AGTCAAGAAA	AAATACGGCT	CCAGTATTTC
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1051	GATTTAAAAC	GCTGGGATTT	GCTGGCGGAA	GAGAAGATGA	CTGGGAGTCG
1101	GACCTGGTAT	ACTGGGGGCC	TGACAACAAG	CCTCTTGCAG	ATAACCGGGA
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1201	TTTATGTCAA	TCCTGAAGGC	CCCGGTGGAA	AACCAGATCC	TCTGGCTTCC
1251	GCGAAAGATA	TCAGGGAAGC	TTTTTCACGT	ATGGCCATGG	ATGATGAGGA
1301	GACTGTGGCC	CTGATCGCGG	GAGGGCATAC	ATTTGGTAAA	GCACATGGTG
1351	CAGCGTCTCC	TGAAAAATGT	ATTGGCGCAG	GGCCTGATGG	TGCACCTGTG
1401	GAGGAGCAGG	GACTGGGATG	GAAAAATAAA	TGTGGTACAG	GAAACGGCAA
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(2) Information for sequence ID No. 2:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 1181 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: double

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 2:

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 101  GTCCCCGTAT TTAAACAATG TGATAAATTA CTCCGTTACC GGAAAACCGC
 151  TGAACAAAAT TCGGGCTGAA AAGAGGATCC GCCGTTATCT GTTGCATTTC
 201  CCCTTAGCCT GACTAGCCAG AGACACAATG ATCTGTGCCG TTCTGTTAAT
 251  ATCAAACCGG TACTCAATAT CTTCTCTGGC GCTGGCTGCC ATCATCCGGA
 301  AGCGTTCCGG TCGGGATAAA AAATCGCGCA GTGCGCCGGT CCATGCAGAC
 351  ACATCCCCCA CGGGTAACAG CGTCCCTGTC ACATTCTTCT GAATGACATC
 401  AGGGATCCCG CCCGTCTCAC TGGCGATAAC GGGCACGCCG GAGACTGACG
 451  CTTCAGCCAG TACCATACCA AACGCTTCAT TTTCCGAAGG CATGACCACC
 501  ACACTGGCAA TCCGGTAGAC CGGTAACGCT GGGAAAAGGG CACCTGCCAT
 551  TTTCCATCCC CTGACGAGCG GCAGGCTCCA CGAGCGAGGA AAAAGACCTG

 651  CCTTCCATCT TCAGCTGATA CAATACACGC AGCATAAATT CATGTCCTTT
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1151  TTCCGGAGCA ATTTTACTTT TTTCTCTGCA G
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(2) Information for sequence ID No. 3:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 22 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 3:
CGGAGATGAAAGCACCACTGTG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 4:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 22 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: antisense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 4:
GGGCTGTGTAATCTCAGAGGAG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 5:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 25 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 5:
GTCCGGAGATGAAAGCACCACTGTG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 6:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 25 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: antisense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 6:
TCAGGGCTGTGTAATCTCAGAGGAG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 7:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 23 base pairs
(B) Type: Nucleic acid
(C) Strandedness: single
(D) Topology: linear
(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 7:
GGCGCTGATACCGGCAAGAATGG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 8:
(i) Sequence characteristics:
(A) Length: 23 base pairs
(B) Type: Nucleic acid
(C) Strandedness: single
(D) Topology: linear
(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 8:
GGTCCCGCAGGCCATGATTTTTG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 9:
(i) Sequence characteristics:
(A) Length: 24 base pairs
(B) Type: Nucleic acid
(C) Strandedness: single
(D) Topology: linear
(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 9:
CCGGCAAGAATGGTCGCAAACTCC

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 10:
(i) Sequence characteristics:
(A) Length: 26 base pairs
(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single
(D) Topology: linear
(E) Strand: antisense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 10:
AAGGGGTTCCAAGCCGCAACTGACGA

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 11:
(i) Sequence characteristics:
(A) Length: 26 base pairs
(B) Type: Nucleic acid
(C) Strandedness: single
(D) Topology: linear
(E) Strand: antisense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 11:
TAAGGGGTTCCAAGCCGCAACTGACG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 12:
(i) Sequence characteristics:
(A) Length: 31 base pairs
(B) Type: Nucleic acid
(C) Strandedness: single
(D) Topology: linear
(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 12:
CTCAACGGCATCGTCAGTTGCGGCTTGGAAC

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 13:
(i) Sequence characteristics:
(A) Length: 31 base pairs
(B) Type: Nucleic acid
(C) Strandedness: single
(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 13:
AGCACTCAACGGCATCGTCAGTTGCGGCTTG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 14:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 31 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 14:
CTATTTCAGGATACCCTTCGTCATCAACACG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 15:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 31 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 15:
AATTTCCCTTAATCCGGAGCTATTCGTATGA

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 16:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 20 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 16:
GAAGACCAGCTTTTTGTTTC

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 17:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 20 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 17:
TGTCACAGACTCAATGACTA

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 18:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 14 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 18:
GGCATCGTCAGTTG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 19:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 16 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 19:
CGGCATCGTCAGTTGC

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 20:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 18 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 20:
ACGGCATCGTCAGTTGCG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 21:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 22 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 21:
CCACCTGAACGATAAGCGGAAC

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 22:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 22 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: antisense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 22:
CACCTTCCTTCCATCCTCAGAC

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 23:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 20 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 23:
ATCCCAGCGCGCTCCAGCTG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 24:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 22 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: antisense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 24:
ACCCATGATGGCGCATCTGATG

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 25:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 31 base pairs

(B) Type: Nucleic acid

(C) Strandedness: single

(D) Topology: linear

(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 25:
ACGTTCTGGTCTTACGGGTGATGTAGGTTTT

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 26:

(i) Sequence characteristics:

(A) Length: 31 base pairs
(B) Type: Nucleic acid
(C) Strandedness: single
(D) Topology: linear
(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 26:
TAGTGAAGCGGTGACAGCATATCAGACGGCT

(2) Information for sequence ID No. 27:
(i) Sequence characteristics:
(A) Length: 21 base pairs
(B) Type: Nucleic acid
(C) Strandedness: single
(D) Topology: linear
(E) Strand: sense

(ii) Molecule type: DNA (genomic)

(iii) Sequence description: SEQ ID No. 27:
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CLAIMS

1. Isolated nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleic sequence SEQ ID No. 1 or the nucleic sequence SEQ ID No. 2, their complementary sequences, the fragments and derived sequences thereof, differing by mutation, insertion, deletion and/or substitution of one or more bases and hybridizing under high stringency conditions with the sequences SEQ ID No. 1 and SEQ ID No. 2, respectively.

2. Isolated nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence SEQ ID No. 1, the sequences complementary thereto and the sequences derived therefrom, comprising a nucleotide chain resulting from the stable combination of at least a portion of the insertion sequence *IS*91 and at least a portion of the sequence of the *katP* gene.

3. Isolated nucleotide sequence according to Claim 2, comprising at least 8, advantageously 10, preferably 14 consecutive nucleotides of the chain of the sequence SEQ ID No. 1, including the nucleotides from position 400 to 407.

4. Isolated nucleotide sequence comprising at least 8 consecutive nucleotides of the sequence SEQ ID No. 1 or of the sequence SEQ ID No. 2, or of sequences complementary thereto and derived therefrom, as defined in Claim 1.

5. Isolated nucleotide sequence according to Claim 4, selected from the following nucleic sequences :

SEQ ID No. 3 : 5' - CGGAGATGAAAGCACCACTGTG - 3'

SEQ ID No. 4 : 5' - GGGCTGTGTAATCTCAGAGGAG - 3'

SEQ ID No. 5 : 5' - GTCCGGAGATGAAAGCACCACTGTG - 3'

SEQ ID No. 6 : 5' - TCAGGGCTGTGTAATCTCAGAGGAG - 3'

SEQ ID No. 7 : 5' - GGCGCTGATACCGGCAAGAATGG - 3'

SEQ ID No. 8 : 5' - GGTCCCGCAGGCCATGATTTTTG - 3'
SEQ ID No. 9 : 5' - CCGGCAAGAATGGTCGCAAACTCC - 3'
SEQ ID No. 10 : 5' - AAGGGGTTCCAAGCCGCAACTGACGA - 3'
SEQ ID No. 11 : 5' - TAAGGGGTTCCAAGCCGCAACTGACG - 3'
SEQ ID No. 12 : 5' - CTCAACGGCATCGTCAGTTGCGGCTTGGAAC - 3'
SEQ ID No. 13 : 5' - AGCACTCAACGGCATCGTCAGTTGCGGCTTG - 3'
SEQ ID No. 14 : 5' - CTATTTCAGGATACCCTTCGTCATCAACACG - 3'
SEQ ID No. 15 : 5' - AATTTCCCTTAATCCGGAGCTATTCGTATGA - 3'
SEQ ID No. 16 : 5' - GAAGACCAGCTTTTTGTTTC - 3'
SEQ ID No. 17 : 5' - TGTCACAGACTCAATGACTA - 3'
SEQ ID No. 18 : 5' - GGCATCGTCAGTTG - 3'
SEQ ID No. 19 : 5' - CGGCATCGTCAGTTGC - 3'
SEQ ID No. 20 : 5' - ACGGCATCGTCAGTTGCG - 3'
SEQ ID No. 21 : 5' - CCACCTGAACGATAAGCGGAAC - 3'
SEQ ID No. 22 : 5' - CACCTTCCTTCCATCCTCAGAC - 3'
SEQ ID No. 23 : 5' - ATCCCAGCGCGCTCCAGCTG - 3'
SEQ ID No. 24 : 5' - ACCCATGATGGCGCATCTGATG - 3'
SEQ ID No. 25 : 5' - ACGTTCTGGTCTTACGGGTGATGTAGGTTTT - 3'
SEQ ID No. 26 : 5' - TAGTGAAGCGGTGACAGCATATCAGACGGCT - 3'
SEQ ID No. 27 : 5' - GTGAGATAGGCACAACAATGA - 3'

6. Pairs of isolated nucleotide sequences according to Claim 4 or 5, used as primers, selected from the following pairs of the following sequences :

SEQ ID No. 3 and SEQ ID No. 4
SEQ ID No. 5 and SEQ ID No. 6
SEQ ID No. 6 and SEQ ID No. 7
SEQ ID No. 6 and SEQ ID No. 8
SEQ ID No. 6 and SEQ ID No. 9
SEQ ID No. 21 and SEQ ID No. 22
SEQ ID No. 23 and SEQ ID No. 24

7. Isolated nucleotide sequence according to Claim 4 or 5, used as probe, selecting from the following

sequences: SEQ ID No. 14, SEQ ID No. 25, SEQ ID No. 15, SEQ ID No. 26, SEQ ID No. 18, and SEQ ID No. 27.

8. Isolated nucleotide sequence according to Claim 7, characterized in that it is labelled.

9. Isolated nucleotide sequence according to Claim 7, characterized in that it is immobilized on a support.

10. Plasmids pDF3 and pDF4 deposited at the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes respectively under the numbers I-1999 and I-2000, on 26 March 1998.

11. Host cell comprising a plasmid according to Claim 10.

12. Method for the detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7 or EHECs in a sample, comprising the following steps:

(a) bringing the sample into contact with a pair of oligonucleotide primers chosen from the oligonucleotides defined in Claim 5; the nucleic acid contained in the sample having been, where appropriate, made accessible to the hybridization of the primers with the nucleic acid of the target tested for,

(b) amplifying the nucleic sequence flanked by the pair of primers chosen,

(c) verification of the presence of the amplified product by the use of at least one probe specific for the amplified product.

13. Method according to Claim 12, according to which step (c) comprises the following substeps:

(c_1) denaturation of the amplified sequences by a physical or chemical means,

(c_2) bringing a solution containing the denatured amplified fragments of step (c_1) into contact with, on the one hand, at least one capture probe, and on the other hand, at least one detection probe, optionally labelled, the capture and detection probes having a sequence as defined in Claim 1, and capable of hybridizing with the same strand of the amplified fragments, the said bringing into contact being

performed for a period sufficient to allow the hybridization reaction,

(c_3) at least one washing in order to remove the unreacted nucleic sequences,

(c_4) visualization of the detection probes hybridized with the amplified nucleic sequences.

14. Method according to Claim 12 or 13, in which the capture probe is attached to the surface of a well of a microtitration plate.

15. Method according to Claim 12 or 13, in which the detection probe is labelled with peroxidase.

16. Method according to any one of Claims 13 to 15, characterized in that the detection of the activity of the peroxidase linked to the detection probe which has reacted, is carried out by colorimetric reaction, in the presence of a chromogenic substrate, such as tetramethylbenzidine (TMB), using the following steps:

- addition of the chromogenic substrate, such as a TMB solution, to the wells containing the reaction mixture,

- incubation, in the dark, for a sufficient period to allow the colour to develop,

- blocking of the reaction by addition of a blocking solution,

- determination of the optical density at an appropriate wavelength.

17. Method for the detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7, according to any one of Claims 12 to 16, using the following oligonucleotides:

- the sequences SEQ ID No. 5 and SEQ ID No. 6, as primers for the amplification,

- the sequence SEQ ID No. 15, as capture probe,

- the sequence SEQ ID No. 18 as detection probe.

18. Method for the detection of the EHECs, according to any one of Claims 12 to 16, using the following oligonucleotides:

- the sequences SEQ ID No. 21 and SEQ ID No. 22, as primers for the amplification,

- the sequence SEQ ID No. 25, as capture probe,
- the sequence SEQ ID No. 27, as detection probe.

19. Kit for the detection of *E. coli* O157 :H7 or EHECs, comprising among the reagents:

- at least two oligonucleotides according to Claim 5, used as a pair of primers,
- optionally at least one oligonucleotide probe according to Claim 5, for the detection of the amplified product.

Abstract

The invention concerns nucleic sequences of plasmid origin, present in bacteria of the group enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli (EHEC), the use of said sequences for searching for EHEC, in particular those having genes coding for enterohemolysin and intimin virulence factors, and more particularly for specific detection of the O157:H7 serotype. The invention also concerns a method using said sequences and detection kits containing them.

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY U.S.A.

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ATTORNEYS' DOCKET NO.

ALL PATENTS, INCLUDING DESIGN
FOR APPLICATION BASED ON PCT, PARIS CONVENTION,
NON PRIORITY; OR PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS

As a below named inventor, I declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are stated below next to my name; the information given herein is true, that I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed at 201 below), or a first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below at 201-203, or on additional sheets attached hereto) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which patent is sought on the invention entitled.

101 / 102

"Nucleotide sequences for the detection of enterohaemorrhagic Escherichia Coli (EHEC)

which is described and claimed in. ☒ PCT International Application No. PCT/FR99/0100 filed April 27, 1999

☐ the attached specification ☐ the specification in application Serial No _____ filed _____

(if applicable) and amended on _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specifications, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.
I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56
I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s) (Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Priority Claimed Yes	No
98 05 329	FRANCE	28 April 1998	☒	☐

103 / 104

(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
			☐	☐
			☐	☐

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Cod, §119(e) of any United States provisional appplication(s) listed below.
Application No. _____ Filing Date _____ Application No. _____ Filing Date _____

105

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status: patented, pending, abandoned)

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I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon

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SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201* Marie	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202*	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203* THIERRY
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☐ Additional inventors are named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.